WEST LAFAYETTE TRAFFIC COMMISSION

WEST LAFAYETTE CITY BUILDING WEST LAFAYETTE, INDIANA

TIME: 5:00 pm, Wednesday, August 16, 2006

PLACE: West Lafayette Board of Works Room

PRESENT: Evan Apotheker Bernadette Farris

Bob Bauman Chris Pekny
Dave Buck Gil Satterly
John Cox Kumares Sinha
Dave Christian John Walker

Carrie Ehresman

VISITORS: Beth Cook Jan Myers

Wendy Field Karen O'Farrell Jeromy Grenard Natalie Villock

Doug Mitchell

Chairman Sinha called the meeting to order. Mr. Satterly made a motion to approve the June minutes, Mr. Christian seconded and the June minutes were approved as written. Chairman Sinha also welcomed new Commission member, Evan Apotheker. Mr. Apotheker will represent District 1.

Chairman Sinha congratulated City Engineer Dave Buck on the city being awarded the Hazard Elimination Program grant for Sycamore Lane. It is the first time this grant has been awarded for a traffic calming project. Chairman Sinha recognized Mr. Buck's continued effort to obtain funding for this important safety project.

NEW BUSINESS:

06-13 West Lafayette Jr/Sr High School – Bus Drop off Location

Mr. Buck brought to the Commission a request from the school corporation to change the location of their bus drop-off from its current location on Leslie Street, to the Grant Street entrance. This change is being requested for the safety of the students and to better control the traffic around the school. The preferred parent drop-off site would change to Leslie Street. The school corporation is requesting the city place one or two "No Stopping, Standing or Parking" signs between the two Grant Street entrances.

Mr. Buck is in favor of this change, but concerned with the potential increase in traffic in Hills & Dales. Mrs. Farris, a resident of Hills & Dales, stated her neighbors are in favor of the change if it would make it safer for the students. Chairman Sinha requested Mr. Buck monitor the traffic on Ravinia, Forest Hill and Leslie streets.

Mr. Satterly made a motion to endorse the change in the bus drop location with the request that Mr. Buck monitor the situation and report back to the Commission. Deputy Chief Walker seconded and the motion passed.

06-14 Cherry Lane Speed Study

Captain Cox stated that INDOT is conducting a speed study of Cherry Lane and McCormick Road. There has been a request to lower the speed limit on Cherry Lane. No action is requested at this time.

OLD BUSINESS:

02-20 Cumberland Avenue Striping

In 2002, when Cumberland Avenue was striped between Salisbury Street and Soldiers Home Road, it was discussed that the west end of Cumberland would be striped once the east end had been successfully completed. In response to citizen requests, Mr. Buck brought to the Commission a proposed striping plan for the west end of Cumberland Avenue; between Salisbury Street and Sagamore West.

According to Ms. Villwock, an intern with the Engineering Department, a bike lane and parking spots would be painted much like the east end of Cumberland. As much as possible, parking would remain intact, especially in the vicinity of the high school athletic fields. No action was requested.

06-11 Indian Trail Speed Concerns

Mr. Buck said the city is beginning the process of installing ADA accessible ramps along Indian Trail. His office has also begun preliminary brainstorming for traffic calming options.

Three intersections along the "straight" part of Indian Trail were investigated as possible traffic calming sites. The Mohawk and Indian Trail intersection was chosen because it was the widest intersection. Mr. Buck distributed a drawing showing a neck-down at this site, narrowing Indian Trail to 11' and shortening the crosswalk at Mohawk Lane. The narrowing of Indian Trail at one of the straighter, wider stretches will have the effect of creating a visual barrier and slowing down vehicles.

Several residents of Indian Trail presented Mr. Buck with a petition which requests that the city address their traffic concerns on Indian Trail. The neighborhood would like to request current traffic counts and traffic monitoring. They would also like a greater police presence during peak hours. Chairman Sinha requested that Mr. Buck continue to explore traffic calming options for Indian Trail, and Deputy Chief Walker look into increasing the enforcement in this neighborhood.

NEXT MEETING: 5:00 pm, Wednesday, October 18, 2006. Note, there will not be a September Traffic Commission Meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

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David M. Buck, P.E. City Engineer

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